



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FIREWORKS CAN PUT FAMILY PETS IN DANGER *County Animal Services Offers Fourth of July Safety Tips*

The County Department of Animal Services announced today simple tips to keep pets safe during Independence Day celebrations.

Noise generated by both legal and illegal fireworks can frighten pets and trigger a “flight” response that can cause destructive or harmful behavior, according to Dawn Danielson, director of the County Department of Animal Services.

“To seek safety from loud noise, many pets will dig under, climb over, or break through gates, screens, fences, or doors and get hurt or become lost,” said Danielson. “When a pet runs away, it is exposed to even greater dangers, such as vehicles or other animals.”

The Department offers the following safety tips:

- **Do not take your pets to fireworks displays or leave them in a vehicle.** The inside of a vehicle can get dangerously hot, even with windows partially open.
- **If you know your pet is afraid of loud noises, consult with your veterinarian.** Your veterinarian may suggest anti-anxiety medication or other techniques.
- **Keep your pets at home and indoors.** This provides a familiar environment and reduces noise levels. A TV or radio can help pets feel more secure and comfortable.
- **Ensure your pets are easily identifiable, and take “found” animals to the nearest municipal shelter.** Lost pets with internal microchip identification and/or external ID tags are more readily reunited with their owners. Take “found” animals to the nearest shelter.
- **If you lose your pet, visit local animal shelters.** Owners of lost pets should visit local animal shelters frequently. Owners can also go to the County Animal Services Web site at www.sddac.com to search for pets at the County’s animal shelters in Bonita, Carlsbad, and San Diego. For more information, call 619-236-4250 or, in North County, 760-438-2312.

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